



My Ref: FOI 6546
Enquiries to: Information Requests
E-Mail: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

Dear Requester,

Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000

I wish to confirm that the council has completed its search for the information which you requested.

The information requested and our findings are as follows: -

Please supply the following information (within the required timescale.)

1. What private planning organisation was involved in providing the maps and published supporting reports for the current local plan?

No private planning organisation was involved in preparing the current Local Plan policies maps.

Private consultants involved in preparing reports published as part of the local level evidence base for the current Local Plan included:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • ARUP | • AECOM |
| • Babbie | • Alsop |
| • Jacobs | • Gillespies |
| • Wessex Archaeology | • England & Lyle |
| • Chris Rowlands November | • LDA Design |
| • Peter Brett Associates | • ECUS/LUC |
| • Mott MacDonald April 2016 | • Strategic Leisure |
| • Benell Investments | • 4 Global |
| • Wildscapes | • JBA Consulting |
| • TEP | • Andrew Golland Associates |
| • ARC4 | • ArcHeritage |
| • Edge Analytics | • Peter Brett Associates |

2. How were the organisations picked?

Organisations were selected in line with the Council's procurement guidelines and protocols.

3. What fees were paid for work done by private companies or practices in total?

After considering your request I have decided to refuse it under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because it is estimated that the time taken to provide the information would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours.

This is because the Local Plan evidence base referred to in response to Question 1 was prepared over a number of years. This includes documents commissioned for earlier iterations of plan preparation under previous planning policy frameworks that remained relevant to, and informed, the adopted 2019 Local Plan.

The Council has undertaken a review of available financial records to identify expenditure that may be associated with the preparation of the Local Plan evidence base. However, the evidence base spans a lengthy period and involves a number of suppliers who have provided a range of services to the Council across different functions and departments, not solely in relation to Local Plan preparation. The work undertaken so far is estimated to have taken 13 hours to complete.

In order to identify expenditure specifically attributable to the Local Plan, the Council would be required to undertake a manual review of individual invoices and supporting records, cross-referencing these against suppliers and evidence base documents to determine whether costs relate wholly, partly, or not at all to Local Plan preparation. It is estimated that this would take an additional 15 hours to complete considering the number of suppliers and detailed manual searches required. This would produce a total of 28 hours work to fulfil the request.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act is a provision which allows a public authority to refuse to comply with the request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed a set limit known as the appropriate limit. In this case it is estimated that to search for the information you have requested it will take more than the 18 hours, equivalent to a cost of £450 and this is the basis of the decision.

You may be able to refine your request by identifying specific suppliers which you are interested in receiving the financial details against.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Information Requests Via email.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC
Information Requests Team
PO Box 634
Barnsley
S70 9GG
email: informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk

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If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: -

Customer Services Team
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Email: <http://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Kind regards,

Information Requests Team, Barnsley MBC

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